

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARY M. HOWARD,  
Plaintiff,

v.

CORDELL & CORDELL LP,  
Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CV-1002

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025, upon consideration of Plaintiff Mary M. Howard's Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1), *pro se* Amended Complaint (ECF No. 5), and Motion to Appoint Counsel (ECF No. 3), it is **ORDERED** that:

1. Leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is **GRANTED** pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915.
2. The Amended Complaint is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) for failure to state a claim, for the reasons stated in the Court's Memorandum.
3. Howard may file a second amended complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Any second amended complaint must identify all defendants in the caption in addition to identifying them in the body of the second amended complaint and shall state the basis for Howard's claims against each defendant. The second amended complaint shall be a complete document that does not rely on the initial Complaint, Amended Complaint, or other papers filed in this case to state a claim. When drafting her second amended complaint, Howard should be mindful of the Court's reasons for dismissing the claims in her first Amended Complaint as explained in the Court's accompanying Memorandum. Upon the filing of a second amended complaint, the Clerk shall not make service until so **ORDERED** by the Court, so that

the Court may screen the second amended complaint in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

4. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to **SEND** Howard a blank copy of this Court's current standard form to be used by a self-represented litigant filing an employment discrimination action bearing the above-captioned civil action number. Howard may use this form to file her second amended complaint if she chooses to do so.

5. If Howard does not wish to amend further and instead intends to stand on her Amended Complaint as originally pled, she may file a notice with the Court within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order stating that intent, at which time the Court will issue a final order dismissing the case. Any such notice should be titled "Notice to Stand on Amended Complaint," and shall include the civil action number for this case. *See Weber v. McGrogan*, 939 F.3d 232 (3d Cir. 2019) ("If the plaintiff does not desire to amend, he may file an appropriate notice with the district court asserting his intent to stand on the complaint, at which time an order to dismiss the action would be appropriate." (quoting *Borelli v. City of Reading*, 532 F.2d 950, 951 n.1 (3d Cir. 1976))); *In re Westinghouse Sec. Litig.*, 90 F.3d 696, 703–04 (3d Cir. 1996) (holding "that the district court did not abuse its discretion when it dismissed with prejudice the otherwise viable claims . . . following plaintiffs' decision not to replead those claims" when the district court "expressly warned plaintiffs that failure to replead the remaining claims . . . would result in the dismissal of those claims").

6. If Howard fails to file any response to this Order, the Court will conclude that she intends to stand on her Amended Complaint and will issue a final order dismissing this case.<sup>1</sup>

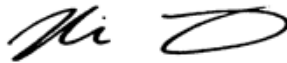
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<sup>1</sup> The six-factor test announced in *Poulis v. State Farm Fire & Casualty Co.*, 747 F.2d 863 (3d Cir. 1984), is inapplicable to dismissal orders based on a plaintiff's intention to stand on her complaint. *See Weber*, 939 F.3d at 241 & n.11 (treating the "stand on the complaint" doctrine as

*See Weber*, 939 F.3d at 239-40 (explaining that a plaintiff's intent to stand on his complaint may be inferred from inaction after issuance of an order directing him to take action to cure a defective complaint).

7. The Request for Appointment of Counsel (ECF No. 7) is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to renewal after the Court conducts statutory screening of any second amended complaint that Howard may file. *See Tabron v. Grace*, 6 F.3d 147, 155 (3d Cir. 1993) (in determining whether appointment of counsel is appropriate, the Court should first determine whether plaintiff's lawsuit has a legal basis).

**BY THE COURT:**




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**MIA R. PEREZ, J.**

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distinct from dismissals under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) for failure to comply with a court order, which require assessment of the *Poulis* factors); *see also Elansari v. Altria*, 799 F. App'x 107, 108 n.1 (3d Cir. 2020) (*per curiam*). Indeed, an analysis under *Poulis* is not required when a plaintiff willfully abandons the case or makes adjudication impossible, as would be the case when a plaintiff opts not to amend her complaint, leaving the case without an operative pleading. *See Dickens v. Danberg*, 700 F. App'x 116, 118 (3d Cir. 2017) (*per curiam*) ("Where a plaintiff's conduct clearly indicates that he willfully intends to abandon the case, or where the plaintiff's behavior is so contumacious as to make adjudication of the case impossible, a balancing of the *Poulis* factors is not necessary."); *Baker v. Accounts Receivables Mgmt., Inc.*, 292 F.R.D. 171, 175 (D.N.J. 2013) ("[T]he Court need not engage in an analysis of the six *Poulis* factors in cases where a party willfully abandons her case or otherwise makes adjudication of the matter impossible." (citing cases)).